

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 08149 190049Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 L-01 /038 W

-----191742Z 128782 /40 S

R 190050Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0809

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T PARIS 08149

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, FR, GW, BE, WB

SUBJECT: AIR FRANCE INTEREST IN SERVICE TO BERLIN
SCHOENEFELD

REF: BONN 3011 NOTAL

1. RECENT LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH MME. RIVOAL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SECTION OF AIR FRANCE, PROVIDED US OPPORTUNITY INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBLE AIR FRANCE INTEREST IN SERVICE TO EAST BERLIN. WE SAID WE HAD HEARD SOME VAGUE RUMORS ON THAT SCORE.

2. RIVOAL REPLIED THAT GDR PERIODICALLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING AIR FRANCE INAUGURATE SUCH A SERVICE BUT THUS FAR AIR FRANCE HAD SHOWN NO INTEREST. TRAFFIC WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO

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MAKE SUCH A SERVICE PROFITABLE. SHE WAS CONFIDENT THAT AIR FRANCE VIEWS HAD NOT CHANGED AND THAT NO SERIOUS STUDY WAS BEING GIVEN TO EVENTUALITY OF SERVICE TO EAST BERLIN. ON RETURNING TO HER OFFICE SHE CHECKED FURTHER WITHIN AIR FRANCE ORGANIZATION AND PHONED US TO RECONFIRM THAT ABSOLUTELY NO THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN TO SERVICE

TO EAST BERLIN OR ANY OTHER GDR POINT.

3. COMMENT: RIVOAL'S STAFF WITHIN AIR FRANCE IS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH TRAFFIC RIGHTS, POOLING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC., AND RIVOAL OR HER ASSISTANT REPRESENT AIR FRANCE ON MOST GOF DELS NEGOTIATING CIVAIR BILATERALS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. SHE IS THEREFORE WELL PLACED TO KNOW WHETHER AIR FRANCE INTENDS EXPLORE OBTAINING NEW ROUTES. EMBASSY'S RELATIONS WITH RIVOAL ARE VERY CLOSE AND WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUND HER TO BE A GOOD SOURCE. IF SOME AIR FRANCE FIELD REPS HAVE FANNED RUMORS OF POSSIBLE AIR FRANCE INTEREST IN EAST BERLIN SERVICE, WE SUSPECT THIS MAY STEM FROM ACTIVISM ON THEIR PART RATHER THAN REFLECTING POSITION OF AIR FRANCE HEADQUARTERS. HOWEVER, WE'LL CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR EARS OPEN.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN ACCESS, AIR ROUTES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS08149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770095-0352
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770343/aaaabkql.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 519a5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 BONN 3011
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3058593
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR FRANCE INTEREST IN SERVICE TO BERLIN SCHOENEFELD
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, FR, GE, BE, WB, US, AIR FRANCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/519a5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009